(vii) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to cluster of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

Programme for reservation of biosphere

1878. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a programme to reserve biosphere;

(b) whether Government have formulated any guidelines thereon for the Eighth Plan; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Biosphere Reserve Programme has been launched in 1986 with the objective to preserve the biodiversity in representative ecosystems; to conserve the genetic integrity of plants, animals and micro-organisms; to promote research on ecological conservation; to provide facilities for people-environment interaction and to provide opportunities for people's paricipation in achieving these objectives. The guidelines prepared for the 8th Plan relate to management activities such as eco-development demonstration projects for ecologically appropriate forestry, social forestry, medicinal plants, horticulture and development of conservation plans for key species, social welfare activities, etc. For research and development, priority areas have been identified in the areas of land use including agriculture and horticultural practices, socio-economic aspects of human settlements, population dynamics of both plant and animal species and their inter-relationships, restoration aspects of endemic, rare and endangered plant and animal species in their original habitants, etc. Specific activities related to education, awareness and training programmes have also been identified.

Aid for pollution control

1879. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has sanctioned $ 1.56 billion aid for control of pollution;

(b) whether control of industrial effluents in the river Damodar and its tributaries are covered therein; and

(c) whether flood-handling capability of Bihar is likely to be part of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Government of India has entered into an agreement for financial assistance of about US $ 155 million from the World Bank, for industrial pollution control.

(b) The Project includes a scheme to provide loans for the setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in clusters of small-scale industrial units, and to large and medium scale industrial units in eight selected sectors, for setting up and upgradation of treatment systems throughout the country. Industries located alongside the river Damodar and its tributaries can also avail the loan under these schemes.

(c) No, Sir.

Afforestation projects in Rajasthan and Haryana

1880. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan is financing afforestation projects in Rajasthan and Haryana;

(b) whether there is any similar programme for afforestation in the Chhotanagpur plateau of Bihar; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Japan is providing assistance for the pro-

ject titled "Afforestation and Pasture Development along Indira Gandhi Canal Area" in Rajasthan. The five-year project, with total outlay of Rs. 107.5 crores was started in 1990-91. The main project activities are plantations, sand dune stabilisation pasture, development, farm forestry, etc. Japan is not assisting any afforestation project in Haryana.

(b) and (c) The Bihar Social Forestry Project is being implemented in the Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana areas with the assistance provided by the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA). The project was started in 1985-86 and will close in March, 1992. As against the original project cost of Rs. 53.85 crores, the expenditure ending March, 1991 was Rs. 42.01 crores.

Representation of SC/ST/Minorities in Selection Committees

1881. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instructions of the Government of India of August 1990 for inclusion of representatives of SC|ST and Minorities in the Selection Committees| Boards have been implemented by his Ministry;

(b) if so, what are the details of such bodies and organisations under his Ministry where the instructions have been implemented;

(c) what are the names of the bodies which have not implemented the instructions so far and the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government|institutions in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vacant posts of wild life wardens in J & K

1882. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all present 11 posts of Wild Life Wardens are lying vacant for the last two years in Jammu and Kashmir; if so; the number of eligible candidates who have so far applied for appointment to the post;

(b) whether the rules have not been framed so far in this regard; if so, what are the reasons for the delay; and

(c) whether the Government propose to appoint eligible candidates on ad-hoc basis so as to save wild life in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

883. [*Transferred to the 13th December*, 1991].

Import of timber and pulp

1884. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of timber and pulp imported during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) the names of the countries from which it was imported; and

(c) the measures Government propose to curb the imports thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Import of timber and pulp is under Open General Licence (OGL) and information on import of these items is available with the Government upto the year 1988-89 only. The details for the years 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 are given in the statement annexed. (*See* below)

(c) The import of timber and pulp is currently under OGL.